

West Pennine Local Medical Committee

MARCH 2021 UPDATE FROM YOUR LMC



Dr Amir Hannan, Chair



Dr Alan Dow, Secretary



Dr Mohammed Wasim, Vice Chair

LMC meeting – March 9th, 2021

The committee met on the evening of March 9th via Microsoft Teams. The next steps for the COVID 19 vaccination programme were discussed. It was acknowledged that while directing patients to mass vaccination sites, such as the Etihad stadium, would help to free GP practice staff time, it could potentially widen the health inequality gap. Many patients don't have a car and would struggle to travel to the Etihad. It was concluded that vaccinations should continue to be offered at mass vaccination sites AND local vaccination sites where they are able to continue to provide this. Measures to increase the uptake of vaccines amongst the BAME community in the West Pennine area have been working well.

Committee representatives also flagged that District Nursing teams in T&G have been asking GPs to prescribe dressings for their patients. The LMC have written to the District Nursing team, pointing out that District Nurses should do their own prescribing as they better understand what dressings their patients require, and it should come from the Hospital/DN budget.

The committee went on to discuss the issue of hospitals increasingly transferring outpatient diagnostics work to GPs. Clearly this is an unsustainable position and the LMC will continue to flag this concern with the relevant organisations.

The committee discussed referrals to Community Services within T&G which continues to be problematic for practices and patients. If any practices can share with the LMC (without patient details) any examples of difficulty/delay or harm, we will take these forwards with the Hospital leads.

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EMIS customer care issues

It has been brought to the LMC's attention that EMIS aren't always as responsive as they should be. If you have any examples of issues with EMIS, please do let us know and we will escalate this.

westpenninelmc@btconnect.com

COVID 19 vaccination programme guidance

The most up-to-date guidance from the BMA can be found here:

[COVID-19 vaccination programme \(bma.org.uk\)](https://www.bma.org.uk/covid-19-vaccination-programme)

BMA – GPC GP contract 2021-22 update

The GPC updated GPs on the conclusion of their 2021-22 GP contract negotiations on February 24th and 25th. In case you were unable to join either of those webinars, we have attached the slides that were shared.

Recruitment advertising

We have recently added new GP job adverts to our website. We are happy to advertise clinical, or managerial positions. If you wish to advertise a post at your practice, please send a job advert, including closing date to westpenninelmc@btconnect.com

Retirement

Please do let us know if any GPs are due to retire from your practice, so we can acknowledge their service to General Practice.

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DPO Update



Jane Hill, GP Practice Data Protection Officer

Death of Dame Fiona Caldicott

Sadly, Dame Fiona Caldicott died in February 2021. Dame Fiona was the first National Data Guardian and her work championing the cause for safe and respectful use of patient data leaves a lasting legacy for patients.

On the 8th of December 2020, an Eighth Caldicott principle was introduced:

Principle 8: “Inform patients and service users about how their confidential information is used. A range of steps should be taken to ensure no surprises for patients and service users, so they can have clear expectations about how and why their confidential information is used, and what choices they have about this. These steps will vary depending on the use: as a minimum, this should include providing accessible, relevant and appropriate information - in some cases, greater engagement will be required”.

When considering data protection issues, we must be mindful of all eight Caldicott principles, including principle 7:

“The Duty to share information for individual care is as important as the duty to protect patient confidentiality. Health and social care professionals should have the confidence to share confidential information in the best interest of patients and service users within the framework set out by the Caldicott principles”.

I have attached the eight Caldicott principles in case you want to reference them.

Dame Fiona’s extended term was due to end on the 31st of March 2021. Dr Nicola Byrne has been announced as the government’s preferred candidate.

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GM Care Record

The GM Care Record continues to evolve at pace. All but one of the GP practices in Greater Manchester are now feeding into the GMCR. There are also now data feeds from 10 councils, 7 Acute Trusts, 3 Mental Health Trusts, 8 Out of hours organisations including Go to Doc, NWAS and Master call, 4 community organisations, 6 hospices and 1 specialist Trust - The Christie.

A substantial amount of associated Information Governance work has been taking place, led by Jenny Spiers. A suite of audits has been developed and Role Based access policies are being established. Obviously, clinicians would have the highest level of access to the GM Care Record.

A report outlining GMCR legal compliance when the COPI notice expires has recently been published. I have attached the document and if you have any comments or feedback on this document, please let me know so I can pass it on to the relevant parties.

Peter Richards, GM Partnership Communication Lead has developed a patient engagement campaign, which is due to be released in the next few weeks. I have attached copies of the slides for your information.

COPI Notice extension to September 2021

As I said in last month's update, the COPI notice has now been extended until 30th September 2021. The COPI notice provides a temporary legal basis, allowing the sharing and processing of patient data with a COVID-19 purpose. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-notification-of-data-controllers-to-share-information/coronavirus-covid-19-notice-under-regulation-34-of-the-health-service-control-of-patient-information-regulations-2002-general--2>

National Data opt out deadline extended to September 2021

The deadline for health and care organisations to comply with national data opt-out policy has also been extended to 30 September 2021.

<https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out/compliance-with-the-national-data-opt-out>

Submission of DSPT return – Deadline 30th June 2021

The deadline for submitting your Data Security & Protection Toolkit return is June 30th, 2021.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at jane.hilldpo@nhs.net or westpenninelmc@btconnect.com, or mobile 07951 530 417.